

PUBLIC NOTICE

To the Residents of Norman County, Minnesota and Interested Citizens:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Consoer Townsend Envirodyne Engineers Inc. is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the restoration of the Wild Rice River over the Heiberg Dam in Norman County. The EA is currently in draft form and is available for your review. If no substantive comments are received following agency and public review, the draft EA will be considered the final EA and no additional information will be incorporated. The Draft EA addresses a number of topics including the feasible alternatives under consideration, environmental impacts of the alternatives, and mitigation measures for any substantial impacts identified.

Heavy rains during June 2002 resulted in disaster declaration FEMA-1419-DR-MN being declared for 19 counties in Minnesota. Prior to June 2002, the Wild Rice River in Norman County passed over Heiberg Dam and traversed through an oxbow on the west side of State Route 32 in Township 144N, Range 44W, Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21. Flooding during the event caused an earthen embankment washout at this location and the Wild Rice River now traverses through an historic sluice channel upstream of the Heiberg Dam, thereby avoiding the dam and the oxbow. The Wild Rice Watershed District is proposing to repair the earthen embankment and restore the river to its pre-disaster channel and has applied for funding for this restoration from FEMA.

The Draft EA indicates that there are significant adverse impacts from the No Action Alternative and the Course Restoration (Without Improvements) Alternative. The No Action Alternative would result in impacts to the hydraulic regime of the river, increased sediment transport, scour impacts to the State Route 32 bridge, ice scour impacts downstream of the dam, and loss of floodplain forest associated with the abandoned oxbow. The Course Restoration (Without Improvements) Alternative would have impacts on the ability of fish to pass to high quality spawning grounds located upstream of the Heiberg Dam. The Draft EA indicates that there are no significant adverse impacts from the Preferred Alternative. This alternative restores the Wild Rice River to its pre-disaster channel and incorporates a rock arch rapids downstream of the bridge to allow for fish passage and bend weirs downstream to direct the river's course away from the vertical, north bank.

It is important that we receive your input on the Draft EA to assure that we have addressed the specific issues and concerns that the residents of Norman County believe are important. Information repositories have been set up at the following locations for you to come in and review the Draft EA:

City of Twin Valley
City Hall
107 Second Street SW
Twin Valley, MN 56584

Ada Public Library
107 4th Avenue E
Ada, MN 56510

In addition, the document may be viewed online at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>

You can provide us with comments on the EA by mailing faxing, or emailing your comments to the following address:

CTE Engineers Inc.
303 East Wacker Drive
Suite 600
Chicago, Illinois 60601
PHONE: 312/938-0300
FAX: 312/861-4152
Attention: Cheryl M. Nash, Senior Environmental Scientist
email: cheryl.nash@cte-eng.com

We will need to receive your comments by October 27, 2004. We look forward to your input.